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from that time to the end of the month 11 cases, with 6 deaths, were recorded.

A medical officer of the special commission on sanitation (now the public health service of Ecuador) was sent to Milagro with assistants to institute sanitary measures, and the work is continued.

EGYPT.

Report from Alexandria—History of plague in Egypt, 1899–1908—Transmission of plague by rats—Sanitary measures enforced in cities.

Consul Birch reports, December 10:

The present outbreak of plague in Egypt is now running out its tenth year. The first cases were reported in 1899 and in that year there were 93 cases of plague with 45 deaths, all in Alexandria. The next year the number of new cases in Alexandria decreased to 36 and the center of infection shifted to Port Said, where 90 cases were treated. In 1901 Alexandria again reported the bulk of plague cases, and from that time to the present, with the exception of the years 1904 and 1906, when bubonic epidemics occurred in the district of Samalout, the city of Alexandria has been the principal plague spot in Egypt.

During the 9 years from 1899 to 1907, inclusive, there have been 4,213 cases of plague in all Egypt, of which 2,729 resulted in death. Of these 4,213 cases, 1,253 were reported last year. The plague figures for 1908 will show even a greater number of cases for all Egypt, though probably less for Alexandria.

The chief sanitary inspector of the Alexandria office of the Conseil Sanitaire, Maritime, et Quarantenaire d'Egypte, informs the consulate that the present tendency of the disease is to attack the small villages of the interior and to lessen its activity in the larger cities. This is due to the almost total absence of ordinary sanitary precautions in the interior in contradistinction to the immediate and extreme measures applied to new cases in the cities. In Alexandria the outbreak is confined to the native and poorer Greek quarters, and seldom is a case reported from the cleaner European sections.

The chief sanitary inspector, in discussing the causes of bubonic plague in Egypt, expressed the belief that contagion was in the majority of instances transmitted through actual contact with rats. Close observation had shown that infection through bites of rat fleas was to a lesser degree the cause of plague in Egypt than in India or elsewhere. Speaking as to the possibility of plague being carried into the United States by raw cotton, he said he did not think this probable, as the rat does not house itself in cotton bales. Hides and skins would be more likely to carry the rat than bales of cotton.

TABLE.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Year.	Cases.	Deaths.
1899	93	45	1905	127	87
1900	36	25	1906	99	61
1901	52	26	1907	105	89
1902	101	62	Total	850	538
1903	129	83			
1904	108	70			

During the current year up to November 13 there were reported in Alexandria 97 cases of plague, with 57 deaths.

The local authorities are most active in their treatment of cases, compelling immediate isolation in every instance. The population of the city of Alexandria is nearly 400,000.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Status of cholera in Russia.

The following is received from Consul-General Thackara, under date of December 21:

During the week ended November 21 there were registered in the Russian Empire 324 fresh cases of cholera, with 158 deaths, and during the week ended November 28 there were registered 217 cases, with 90 deaths.

HAWAII.

Report from Honolulu—Examination of rats for plague infection.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Currie, plague laboratory, reports, December 12, through Temporary Chief Quarantine Officer Moore:

Week ended December 12.

Rats taken in Honolulu.....	937
Trapped.....	937
Found dead.....	0
Shot from trees.....	0
Examined bacteriologically.....	690
Showing plague infection.....	0

Classification of rats trapped.

Mus rattus.....	122
Mus norvegicus.....	49
Mus alexandrinus.....	70
Mus musculus.....	692
Total classified.....	933
Average number of traps set daily.....	1,376

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Emigrants recommended for rejection—Smallpox in Naples—Status of smallpox in Italy.

Assistant Surgeon Wollenberg reports, December 14:

Week ended December 12.—Vessels inspected at Naples.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Dec. 8	Liguria.....	New York.....	689	80	950
8	Luisiana.....	do.....	920	90	720
9	Hamburg.....	do.....	507	75	580
9	Madonna.....	do.....	834	120	1,100
10	Slavonia.....	do.....			
10	Barbarossa.....	do.....	651	80	920
	Total.....		3,601	445	4,270